

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 CANBER 03497 170232Z

ACTION EB-07

INFO OCT-01 EA-09 ISO-00 TRSE-00 INR-07 /024 W

-----170655Z 031626 /15

R 170212Z MAY 77

FM AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 430

INFO AMCONSUL SYDNEY

UNCLAS CANBERRA 3497

DEPT PASS BUREAU OF CUSTOMS

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ETRD, AS

SUBJ: CUSTOMS APPLICABILITY FOR SUPPLIES FOR GRETEL II,  
ONE OF AUSTRALIA'S CHALLENGERS FOR AMERICA'S CUP

REF: 76 CANBERRA 2680

1. AS DEPARTMENT IS NO DOUBT AWARE, AUSTRALIA WILL BE REPRESENTED THIS YEAR BY TWO CHALLENGERS FOR THE AMERICA'S CUP. EMBASSY RECENTLY CALLED UPON BY SIR WILLIAM PETTINGELL, CO-CHAIRMAN OF 1977 AMERICA'S CUP CHALLENGE ASSOCIATION(A NON-PROFIT CORPORATION INCORPORATED IN THE A.C.T.), THE SYNDICATE MANAGING CHALLENGE OF GRETEL II. SIR WILLIAM SOUGHT EMBASSY ADVICE ON U.S. CUSTOMS FORMALITIES ON GRETEL II, HER TENDER, BOATS EQUIPMENT (SAILS, CERTAIN SPARS, LINE, ETC.) AND CONTRIBUTIONS IN KIND GIVEN BY SUPPORTERS OF BOAT.

2. GRETEL II WILL BE LOADED IN NEXT FEW DAYS ABOARD FARRELL LINE'S AUSTRAL ENDURANCE AND WILL BE OFFLOADED AT NEW YORK DURING MIDDLE OF JUNE. ALSO ON BOARD AUSTRAL ENDURANCE WILL BE BOAT'S TENDER AND CONTAINER MAINLY CONTAINING BOAT'S GEAR BUT INCLUDING SUCH ITEMS AS AUSTRALIAN WINES, BEER, CANNED FOOD, ETC, FOR THE USE OF GRETEL II'S CREW WHICH HAVE BEEN DONATED TO SYNDICATE AS GIFTS IN KIND BY A NUMBER OF  
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CORPORATE SUPPORTERS OF CHALLENGE EFFORT. A SECOND CONTAINER CONSISTING ALMOST ENTIRELY OF SUCH GIFTS IN KIND WILL BE SHIPPED TWO WEEKS LATER. BOAT, TENDER AND CONTAINERS (AS WELL AS SIMILAR ITEMS FOR OTHER AUSTRALIAN CHALLENGER) BEING SHIPPED BY FARRELL LINES FREE OF CHARGE. GRETEL II SYNDICATE HAS NOT RPT NOT YET APPOINTED CUSTOMS AGENT IN NEW YORK.

3. SIR WILLIAM TOLD US HE ASSUMED THAT GRETTEL II, HER TENDER AND HER EQUIPMENT WOULD NOT BE SUBJECT TO U.S. CUSTOMS DUTIES, BUT HE WAS UNSURE ABOUT "GIFTS IN KIND" FOR USE OF CREW. ALTHOUGH HE HAS NO OBJECTION TO PAYING DUTY ON LATER MATERIAL IF SUCH IS REQUIRED, HE WOULD LIKE TO BE SUITABLY FOREWARNED.

4. EMBOFF TOLD SIR WILLIAM THAT HE VIRTUALLY SURE THIS SUBJECT HAD COME UP IN PAST CHALLENGES AND THAT DEPARTMENT AND/OR BUREAU OF CUSTOMS COULD UNDOUBTEDLY PROVIDE READY ANSWERS TO HIS QUESTIONS. DEPARTMENT AND/OR BUREAU OF CUSTOMS REQUESTED SUPPLY SOONEST INFORMATION NEEDED ANSWER SIR WILLIAM'S QUESTIONS.

5. COMMENT: AS THE DEPARTMENT IS AWARE, SIR WILLIAM PETTINGELL IS A MEMBER OF AUSTRALIA'S INFLUENTIAL FOREIGN INVESTMENT REVIEW BOARD. BRIEF BIOGRAPHICAL DETAILS ARE SET FORTH IN REFTEL.  
ALSTON

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## Message Attributes

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**To:** STATE  
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**Review Markings:**  
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